

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 FDRE-00 AID-05 EUR-12 DPW-01

CCO-00 OPR-02 A-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 /084 W

----- 029939

Z 160535Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 2791

AMEMBASSY SAIGON FLASH

S E C R E T BANGKOK 6501

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, TH, VS, CB

SUBJECT: ALTERNATE PLAN TO EVACUATE AMERICAN CITIZENS REMAINING
IN PHNOM PENH

CAMBODIA-B NO. 32

REF: (A) BANGKOK 6471 (B) STATE 086454

(C) BANGKOK 6489 (CAMBODIA-B NO. 30)

1. WHILE AMBASSADOR DEAN CONTNUES TO BELIEVE THAT AN UNARMED
HELICOPTER EXTRACTION OF THE KIND CONTEMPLATED BY THE AMERICAN
NETWORKS (REF B) WOULD BE EXTREMELY RISKY, PHNOM PENH EMBASSY
STAFF HAS BEEN EXAMINING PROBLEM TO WORK UP AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN,
IN CASE FRENCH DECLINE TO COOPERATE. FOLLOWING ARE MERELY
SUGGESTIONS, WHICH COULD BE PASSED ON TO NETWORK
REPS FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION SHOULD THEY DECIDE TO GO AHEAD WITH
AN EXTRACTION PLAN OF SOME SORT.

2. ASSUMING THAT ALL POTENTIAL EVACUEES ARE ASSUMPLED AT LE
PHNOM HOTEL, EVACUATION SUPERVISOR SHOULD CONTACT SHANBERG VIA
PRC EVENING PRIOR TO EXTRACTION OPERATION (HE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE
TO FLY OVER PHNOM PENH IN THE CHARTED C-46) AND INSTRUCT HIM ON

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WHAT TO DO THE FOLLOWING

MORNING. SINCE SECURE COMMUNICATIONS DO NOT EXIST, THE EVACUATION SUPERVISOR SHOULD CAREFULLY WORK OUT SOME DOUBLE-TALK OR JOURNALISTIC JARGON SORT OF CODE TO GET THE MESSAGE TO SCHANBERG UNDERSTANDBY BUT REASONABLY SECURELY.

3. IF FRENCH EMBASSY COMPOUND CANNOT BE USED BECAUSE GOF DECLINES TO COOPERATE, THE BEST AVAILABLE LANDING ZONE IS A LARGE, SUNKEN FIELD (APPROX. 200 METERS LONG BY 100 METERS WIDE), CLEAR OF TREES AND STRUCTURESWN SUITABLE TO RECEIVE CHOPPERS, LOCATED NOT FAR FROM FRENCH EMBASSY COMPOUND. RECOMMEND ORGANIZERS AND CHOPPER PILOTS/NAVIGATTRS STUDY MAP OF CITY 0(PHOM PENH SERIES L 9010, EDITION 2-DMATC, SCALE 1:12,500) PRESUMABLY AVAILABE IN SAIGON. LZ FIELD IN QUESTION IS LOCATED AT COORDINATES 911-803 ON THAT MAP. FIELD WOULD BE EASY FOR CHOPPERS TO FIND FROM AIR BY FOLLOWING DESTROYED UN BRIDGE ACROSS TONLE SAP HIVER AND THEN ROAD FROM ITS WESTERN END WHICH GOES AROUND CIRCLE DUE WEST TO FIELD, WHICH LIES SOUTH OF MAIN ROAD 300 TO 400 METERS BEYOND CIRCLE.

4. RECOMMEND THAT CHOPPERS ARRIVE AT LZ AT FIRST LIGHT, SAY 0530 OR 0600 HOURS ON DAY CHOSEN. EVACUEES SHOULD ALREADY BE ON LZ READY TO BOARD SO THA T CHOPPERS CAN TAKE OFF IMMEDIATELY AFTER LOADING.

5. SCHANBERG SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO MOVE HIS PEOPLE FROM LE PHNOM HOTEL TO LZ IN ORDER TO BE THERE PRIOR ARRIVAL TIME SET FOR CHOPPERS. HE SHOULD BE TOLD TO FIND LZ BY LEAVING PHNOM HOTEL AND TURNING RIGHT ON MONIVONG (MAIN BEULEVARD NEXT TO PHNOM), TAKING MONIVONG NORTH, PAST CALMETTE HOSITAL, PAST FRENCH EMBASSY COMPOUND, AND ON REACHING CIRCLE JUST PAST END OF FRENCH EMBASSY COMPOUND TO BEAR LEFT ONTO MAIN ROAD RUNNING WEST. ABOUT 300 METERS AFTER LEAVING CIRCLE THEY WILL SEE LZ FILED LYING TO THEIR LEFT JUST OFF MAIN ROAD THEY ARE WALKING ALONG. THE FIELD WAS PREPARED RECENTLY AS A SORT OF OPEN PARTK AND IS SUNKEN, DIRT NOT GRASS COVERED. SCHANBERG MAY WELL HAVE IN AP OFFICE IN PHNOMHOTEL A COPY OF MAY OF CITY REFERRED TO ABOVE, IN WHICH CASE HE COULD BE GIVEN COORDINATES OF LZ IN QUESTION. TOTAL DISTANCE GROUP WOULD HAVE SECRET

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TO WALK FROM PHNOM HOTEL TO LZ WOULD BE ABOUT ONE KILOMETER.

6. CHOPPER PILOTS SHOULD BEWARNED, OF COURSE, THAT THEY MAY RECEIVE HOSTILE FIRE FROM KC OR FANK FORCES ON APPROACH, IN AREA OF LZ, AND ON DEPARTURE. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT IF HOUR OF EXTRACTION IS EARLY ENOUGH AND CONDITIONS ARE IDEAL THERE MAY NOT BE TOO MANY OF POPULACE IN AREA OF

LZ TO GET IN WAY OF EXTRACTION.

7. WISH TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WE ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ABOVE PLAN OR ANY OF ADVICE BEING OFFERED. WE ARE MERELY TRYING TO BE HELPFUL, AND REMAINED CONVINCED THAT OPERATION WOULD BE EXTREMELY RISKY FOR ALL CONCERNED.

8. COL. ED RYBAT, NEMVAC OFFICER WHO PLAYED MAJOR ROLE IN SUCCESSFUL EVACUATION FROM PHNOM PENH APRIL 12, WILL ARRIVE SAIGON TONIGHT. HE HAS BEEN ASKED TO CHECK IN AT EMBASSY AND OFFER HIS SERVICES IN WAY OF HIM HERE THIS MORNING PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR SAIGON. MASTERS

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